

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OPIC-12 SCEM-02

INT-08 RSR-01 /146 W

----- 073909

R 010551 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9556
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENGR, IN, BD, BM

SUBJECT: OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION - TERRITORIAL WATERS IN BAY OF
BENGAL

REF: NEW DELHI 4879; DACCA 1816

SUMMARY: OPENING BAY OF BENGAL BY GOI AND BDG FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION RAISES QUESTIONS RE DELINEATION TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES, ALSO BURMA. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DELHI'S SENDING US COPY OF MAP CITED REFTEL ENTITLED " OFFSHORE AREAS OF INDIA," ACCOMPANYING GOI LETTER ON FOREIGN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION INDIAN WATERS.

2. US FIRM CALARCAN, WHICH WAS ONE OF COMPANIES SENT GOI LETTER, HAS SHOWED US MAP HERE IN CONNECTION THEIR PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE IN EXPLORATION OFFSHORE BANGLADESH. MAP DEPICTS BOUNDARY LINES DEFINING INDIAN AND BURMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. THAT FOR FORMER

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STRETCHES FROM WEST BENGAL- BANGLADESH BORDER IN SUNDERBANS SSE
TOWARD LANDFALLL ISLAND, NORTHERNMOST POINT OF INDIAN- OWNED
ANDAMAN
ISLANDS. LINE FOR BURMESE WATERS EXTENDS FROM THE NAF RIVER
BOUNDARY WITH BANGLADESH, ALMOST DUE WOUTH TOWARD COCO ISLANDS,
OWNED BY BURMA, A BIT TO NORTH OF ANDAMANS. THESE TWO LINES
SQUEEZE IN TERRITORIAL WATERS WHICH BANGLADESH MIGHT CLAIM AND MAY
NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BDG. LATTER, HOWEVER, HAS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE
NEVER DEFINED ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS. QUESTIONS PUT TO BDG
OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER HAVE SO FAR DRAWN ONLY VAGUE IMPRECISE
REPLIES.

3. REQUEST ADVICE FROM DEPARTMENT (PLUS MAP) AS TO WHAT TERRITORIAL
WATERS HAVE BEEN CLAIMED IN PAST FOR FORMER EAST PAKISTAN, ALSO
WHETHER CLAIM HAS BEEN DISPUTED BY NEIGHBOR STATES.

4. WE HAVE INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE WHAT OFFSHORE AREAS HAVE BEEN
SOUGHT FOR EXPLORATION PURPOSES IN BANGLADESH AND INDIAN WATERS
BAY OF BENGAL BUT CAN CONCIEVE THAT TERRITORIAL- WATER LINE NOT
AREED BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND BOTH MIGHT MOVE TO AWARD
TO APPLICANT COMPANIES EXPLORATION AREA WHICH DISPUTED BY NEIGHBOR.

5. BURMESE LINE DEPICTED ON CLARCAN MAP DENIES BURMA LARGE BODY OF
TERRITORIAL WATER DUE WEST OF ARAKAN COASTLINE, PART OF WHICH
ACCORDING TO MAP SUPPLIED US BY BRITISH (MEMO TO NEA/ PAB 9/8/72)
FALLS IN CONCESSION AREA SOUGHT BY BDG BY OCCIDENTIAL PETROLEUM.
COULD EMBASSY RANGOON ADVISE WHETHER THIS AREA HAS BEEN OPENED
FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION BY GOB AND WHETHER ANY APPLICATIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE FOR IT? IS ARAKAN COAST AMONG 17 BLOCKS OF OFFSHORE
AREAS ON WHICH BIDS INVITED RECENTLY FROM US, WEST GERMANY AND
JAPAN (RANGOON JOINT WEEKS, 4/13/73)?
NEWBERRY

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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